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ENVELOPE

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HEADER

R 240829Z MAR 94
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUCMACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RULSJGI/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 240820Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4427
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:RSA/POW-MIA//
INFO RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//[redacted]
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CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 008069

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E.O. 12356: N/A

/********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE **********/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, RS

SUBJECT: POW/MIA: REINTERVIEW OF COLONEL (RET) DERZSKIY

REF: A) MOSCOW 030801; B) MOSCOW 031857; C) MOSCOW 034642

1. SUMMARY: TFR TEAM MEMBERS TABACH AND MACDOUGALL REINTERVIEWED COLONEL (RET) GRIGORIY PAVLOVICH DERZSKIY (NOTE CORRECTED SPELLING OF LAST NAME) ON MARCH 7,8, AND 9, 1994. TFR DI8CUSSED 6 ALLEGED AMERICAN NAMES IN DERZ8KIY'S WARTIME NOTEBOOK. DERZSKIY WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUM8TANCES OF HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH A DOWNED AMERICAN PILOT. TEAM MEMBERS SHOWED DERZSKIY A SET OF PICTURES TO SEE IF HE COULD IDENTIFY GENERAL DEAN. HE COULD NOT. END SUMMARY.

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
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2. COL (RET) DERZ8KIY IS AN 80-YEAR OLD PENSIONER WHO SERVED AS A SOVIET INFANTRY OFFICER IN BOTH WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR. IN KOREA HE SERVED AS AN INFANTRY ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDER OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, NORTH KOREAN ARMY. THE KNOWLEDGE DERZSKIY POSSESSES ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS IS BASED ON HIS DUTY POSITION. IN ADDITION, DERZSKIY GAINED INFORMATION ON AMERICAN POWS DUE TO HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH GENERAL-COLONEL SHTIKOV, AND BY HAPPENSTANCE DURING THE WAR. A DESCRIPTION OF DERZSKIY'S ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED FOR EACH SPECIFIC EVENT.

INFORMATION FROM DERZSKIY'S WARTIME NOTEBOOK.
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3. GENERAL: TFR MEMBERS EXAMINED DERZSKIY'S NOTEBOOK IN GREAT DETAIL. IN GENERAL, THE NOTEBOOK CONTAINS INFORMATION TO INCLUDE NAMES AND RANKS OF THE COMMANDERS OF NORTH KOREAN INFANTRY DIVISIONS AND REGIMENTS. ONE PAGE LISTED THE U.8. INFANTRY UNITS TO REGIMENT LEVEL WHICH WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE WAR. THE NOTEBOOK PAGES ARE NO LONGER BOUND AND MANY PAGES WERE MISSING. ACCORDING TO DERZSKIY THESE PAGES WERE RECENTLY REMOVED BY LTC (RET) TARABAROV AND NEVER RETURNED. (TFR COMMENT: EFFORTS TO CONTACT TARABAROV WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. COMPLICATING TFR EFFORTS TO COLLATE INFO FROM THE DIARY WITH DERZSKIY'S ORAL COMMENTS IS THE FACT THAT HE HAS COPIED NEW NOTES OVER ONTO PAGES FROM THE ORIGINAL DIARY, CREATING A MIX OF OLD AND NEW NOTES. DERZSKIY HIMSELF IS SOMETIMES UNSURE WHEN HE WROTE THE NOTES. END COMMENT.)

A. LIST OF ALLEGED AMERICANS: ONE PAGE OF DERZSKIY'S NOTEBOOK HAD A LIST OF FIVE AMERICAN

POWS AND ALSO MENTIONED A SIXTH. THE FOLLOWING INFO ON THESE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WAS CONTAINED IN THE BOOK:
DONALD F. SIRMAN, A PILOT FROM PHILADELPHIA; ERNEST REEVES, A PILOT; SERGEANT MILTON MORRIS FROM ALABAMA; CORPORAL LLOYD EDWARD WOOD; THOMAS WRIGHT, AN ARTILLERMMAN WHOM DERZSKIY REMEMBERED AS A CORPORAL OR SERGEANT BUT NOT AN OFFICER; AND GEORGE TORTON, A SERGEANT FROM CHICAGO.

B. SOURCE OF NAMES: ACCORDING TO DERZSKIY'S RECOLLECTIONS, GEN-COL SHTIKOV DID NOT WANT PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO VISIT POW CAMPS WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL MILITARY ESCORT. ON ONE OCCASION IN 1950 (DERZSKIY WAS UNSURE OF THE DATE ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT IT WAS IN JULY OR AUGUST OF 1950) SHTIKOV ASKED DERZSKIY TO ESCORT A REPORTER FROM THE MILITARY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA TO A POW CAMP WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE NORTH PART OF SEOUL. DERZSKIY SAID THE CAMP HELD APPROX 300 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN FROM ALL SERVICES/RANKS AND THE POWS WERE NOT SEGREGATED BY SERVICE OR RANK; THE PRISONERS WERE NOUSED IN A TWO-STORY BUILDING AND WERE ALLOWED TO WALK OUTSIDE WITHIN THE COMPOUND. DERZSKIY WROTE THE NAMES OF THE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN HIS NOTEBOOK WHILE ACCOMPANYING THE REPORTER THROUGHOUT THE CAMP.

C. ADDITIONAL INFO ON NAMES: DERZSKIY NOTED THAT THE CORRESPONDENT ASKED REEVES WHY HE WAS BOMBING INNOCENT CIVILIANS; REEVES ANSWERED THAT HE WAS ONLY A TEST PILOT AND A FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR AND HAD NEVER BOMBED ANYONE. DERZSKIY ALSO RECOLLECTED THAT THE ARTILLERYMAN, THOMAS WRIGHT, TOLD THE

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 ******/
REPORTER THAT WHEN HIS CREW WAS SURROUNDED HE ORDERED THEM TO STOP FIGHTING AND SURRENDER. THE SAME PAGE OF DERZSKIY'S NOTEBOOK ON WHICH THE NAMES WERE LISTED CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO GEORGE TORTON (ONLY TORTON'S NAME IS WRITTEN EVERYTHING ELSE IS FROM DERZSKIY'S MEMORY), A SERGEANT FROM CHICAGO WHO TOLD THE REPORTER THAT THE BOMB RAVAGED CITIES REMINDED HIM OF CHICAGO AFTER THE GREAT FIRE. DERZSKIY COULD PROVIDE NO ADDITIONAL INFO ON THE NAMES, NOR WAS ANY FURTHER INFO IN THE NOTEBOOK.

PLANE CRASH IN RICE PADDY
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4. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CRASH: DERZSKIY STATED THAT WHILE RETURNING FROM A VISIT WITH HIS WIFE WHO WAS LIVING WITH THEIR CHILDREN NEAR THE CHINESE BORDER, HE SAW A PLANE MAKE A FORCED LANDING. THE PLANE LANDED, INTACT, IN A RICE PADDY, NOT FAR FROM THE ROAD ON WHICH HE WAS TRAVELLING.

INITIALLY, HE THOUGHT IT WAS A SOVIET PLANE AND FELT OBLIGATED TO GO TO THE CRASH SITE AND ASSESS THE SITUATION. UPON ARRIVAL, HE REALIZED THAT IT WAS AN AMERICAN PLANE WHICH HAD CRASHED. HE IMMEDIATELY ORDERED HIS INTERPRETER TO REPORT THE INCIDENT TO GEN-COL SHTIKOV. WHILE THE INTERPRETER WAS DOING THAT DERZSKIY AND HIS DRIVER ASSISTED THE PILOT OUT OF THE COCKPIT AND PROVIDED FIR8T AID FOR INJURIES TO THE PILOT'S LEGS. THE INTERPRETER INFORMED DERZSKIY THAT SHTIKOV'S ORDER WAS TO STAND BY AND WAIT FOR A TRUCK TO TRANSPORT THE PLANE AND FOR THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS FROM ANDUNG WHO WOULD ESCORT THE PILOT. A TRUCK MANNED BY ORIENTAL-LOOKING MEN IN CHINESE UNIFORMS ARRIVED, LOADED THE PLANE ON A TRUCK WHICH DERZSKIY LIKENED TO THOSE USED AT AIRPORTS TO TOW PLANES. THE PILOT WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY SOVIET SPECIALISTS WHO WERE DRESSED IN CHINESE AIR FORCE UNIFORMS, DERZSKIY SAID.

A. DATE OF CRASH: DERZSKIY REMEMBERED THE CRASH OCCURRED IN THE EARLY PART OF OCTOBER, 1950 BECAUSE THE VISIT WITH HIS WIFE REFERRED TO ABOVE WAS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH DERZSKIY'S WIFE, SHE STATED THAT THE VISIT WAS IN AUGUST 1950, BUT AFTER DI8CUSSING THE DATE WITH HER HUSBAND, BOTH SHE AND DERZSKIY SETTLED ON THE OCTOBER DATE. DERZSKIY DESCRIBED THE RICE PADDY INTO WHICH THE PLANE CRASHED AS BEING DRY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

B. LOCATION OF CRASH: DERZSKIY DESCRIBED THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH AS A RICE PADDY NEAR A RIVER AND A RAILROAD NOT FAR FROM THE TOWN OF KUJANG (TRANSLIT - KUDZHAN).

C. DESCRIPTION OF PLANE: DERZSKIY RECALLED ONLY THAT THE PLANE WAS GREENISH-BLUE, HAD A 8WEPT-WING DE8IGN AND HAD A WHITE STAR EMBLEM ON THE FUSELAGE. DERZSKIY MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS AN F-86 BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN LATER TOLD BY SHTIKOV THAT A DIRECTIVE FROM MOSCOW TO OBTAIN AND TRANSPORT AN F-86 TO THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN FULFILLED BY THIS INCIDENT. (TFR COMMENT: DERZSKIY WAS GIVEN A SPECIALLY-PREPARED BOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF KOREAN WAR VINTAGE FIGHTER PLANE8. HE IDENTIFIED THE FIRST PHOTO IN THE BOOK MIG-15 AS BEING LIKE THE PLANE HE SAW, BASED SOLELY ON THE ITS SWEPT-WING DESIGN. HE FURTHER IDENTIFIED ANY SWEPT-WING PLANE IN THE BOOK AS BEING LIKE THE ONE HE SAW. EFFORTS TO FURTHER CONCENTRATE HIS RECOLLECTION8 WERE FRUITLESS.)

D. ROUTE OF TRANSPORT: DERZSKIY SAID THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS FROM THE U/I AVIATION DIVISION IN ANDUNG ESCORTED THE PLANE AND THE PILOT BACK TO ANDUNG (NOW CALLED DANDONG). DERZSKIY BELIEVES

THE PLANE AND THE PILOT WERE THEN TRANSPORTED TO MUKHDEN (NOW CALLED SHINYANG). DERZSKIY SAID, GENERAL BELOV, COMMANDER OF THE U/I AVIATION DIVISION BASED IN ANDUNG, LATER TOLD HIM THAT ALL PILOTS WHO WERE CAPTURED AFTER BEING INVOLVED IN DOGFIGHTS WERE TRANSPORTED TO CHINA.

SECOND ENCOUNTER WITH DOWNED PILOT

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 ******/
5. IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH 1951, DERZSKIY WAS SENT TO A SOVIET RED CROSS HOSPITAL
IN MUKHDEN. HE WAS
UNDERGOING SOME MEDICAL TESTS BUT WAS AMBULATORY AND STAYED IN A HOTEL FOR SOVIET OFFICERS IN MUKHDEN. AT THE HOTEL HE SAW WHO HE THOUGHT WAS THE SAME DOWNED AMERICAN PILOT FROM HIS PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER IN THE RICE PADDY. DERZSKIY REPORTED THAT THE PILOT WAS IN A CHINESE AIR FORCE UNIFORM AND WALKED WITH NO NOTICEABLE LIMP. THE PILOT WAS ALWAYS ESCORTED BY SOVIET SPECIALISTS IN CHINESE AIR FORCE UNIFORMS. ON ONE OCCASION DERZSKIY ASKED A U/I SOVIET MAJOR WHO THE FOREIGNER UNDER CONSTANT ESCORT WAS. THE MAJOR REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO WAS DRAWING TECHNICAL SKETCHES OF AMERICAN WARPLANES. DUE TO DERZSKIY'S NEW COMMAND RELATIONSHIP AS A SUBORDINATE OF GENERAL RAZUVAYEV, WHO HAD REPLACED GEN-COL SHTIKOV, HE FELT IT BETTER TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE AND NOT ASK QUESTIONS WHICH WERE NOT RELATED TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. DERZSKIY WAS NOT CERTAIN BUT FELT THE PLANE WAS ALSO AT MUKHDEN AT THE TIME HE SAW THE PILOT.

GENERAL DEAN
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6. FIRST MEETING: DETAILED QUESTIONING REVEALED THAT DERZSKIY MET WITH GENERAL DEAN, AT THE REQUEST OF GEN-COL SHTIKOV, SHORTLY AFTER DEAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED. THIS FIRST MEETING TOOK PLACE NEAR THE TOWN OF CHONJU WHICH WAS THE GENERAL LOCATION OF DEAN'S CAPTURE. DERZSKIY BELIEVES HE FIRST MET DEAN ON THE 19TH OR 20TH OF JULY 1950. (TFR COMMENT: DERZSKIY HAD GREAT DIFFICULTLY PINPOINTING DATES IN GENERAL. IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE, DERZSKIY FIRST CLAIMED TO HAVE MET DEAN ON 7 JULY, CHANGED HIS MIND TO 9 JULY AND EVENTUALLY SETTLED ON THE 19TH OR 20TH BASED ON THE NOTES IN HIS NOTEBOOK WHICH MENTIONED THE TIME PERIOD OF AN ATTACK BY THE ELEMENTS OF THE NORTH KOREAN DIVISION HE ADVISED.)
A. SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS; DERZSKIY REPORTED MEETING WITH GENERAL DEAN ANYWHERE FROM THREE TO FIVE TIMES. HE RECALLS THAT ONE OF THE TIMES WAS

IN SEOUL. HE COULD NOT RECALL SPECIFICS OF OTHER MEETINGS. (TFR COMMENT: DERZSKIY FAILED TO RECOGNIZE A PHOTO OF GENERAL DEAN FROM AMONG A DOZEN PHOTO8 OF AMERICAN OFFICERS OF THE KOREAN WAR ERA.)

B. TRANSPORT OF DEAN: DERZSKIY RECALLS RECEIVING, ON OR ABOUT THE 25TH OF JULY 1950, AN ORAL ORDER FROM SHTIKOV TO TRANSPORT DEAN TO THE SOVIET UNION. DERZSKIY CHARGED HIS POLITICAL OFFICER, LTC NIKOLAYEV (LATER KILLED IN ACTION) WITH TRANSPORTING GENERAL DEAN TO THE SOVIET UNION. DERZSKIY ALSO RECEIVED AN ORDER TO PUT GENERAL DEAN ON A TRAIN IN A SEPARATE RAILCAR AT A SMALL STATION OUTSIDE OF SEOUL. THIS TRAIN WAS TO TRAVEL FROM THE SEOUL AREA TO PYONGYANG AND THEN ON TO THE SOVIET UNION WITHOUT ENTERING CHINA. LTC NIKOLAYEV ESCORTED GENERAL DEAN ON THE TRAIN. UPON HIS RETURN, NIKOLAEV REPORTEDLY TOLD DERZSKIY THAT HE HANDED DEAN OVER TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES AT THE KOREAN-SOVIET BORDER, NEAR KRASKINO.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: DERZSKIY REPEATED MANY OF THE DETAILS OF HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH GENERAL DEAN WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY TFR (REF A, B, C). TAPES OF THIS INTERVIEW WITH DERZSKIY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE DEFENSE POW/MIA OFFICE.

7. TFR COMMENTS.

A. DATES. DERZSKIY IS NOT ABLE TO PINPOINT THE DATES WHEN EVENTS OCCURRED. AT TIMES, INFORMATION IN HIS DIARY CORROBORATES OR BOUNDS CERTAIN TIME PERIODS. OTHERWISE, HIS MEMORY OF DATES APPEARED RELIABLE ONLY TO WITHIN THE 2-3 MONTHS CORRESPONDING TO A SEASON OF THE YEAR.

B. RECOGNITION. DERZSKIY RECOGNIZED A PHOTO OF GEN-COL SHTIKOV, HIS COLLEAGUE IN WWII AND HIS COMMANDER IN KOREA, ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY AND AFTER SOME PROMPTING. HIS INABILITY TO IDENTIFY GENERAL DEAN, WITH WHOM HE REPORTEDLY MET THREE-FIVE

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TIMES, IS UNEXPLAINED. TFR BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS STILL SUFFICIENT REASON TO ATTEMTPT AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE PILOT DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 4, U8ING THE MUGBOOK OF PILOT PHOTOS BASED ON AIR FORCE MANUAL 200-25, MISSING IN ACTION KOREA.

C. ACCESS. MUCH MISINFORMATION SURROUNDS THE DERZSKIY CASE. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER (JAN 16, 1994), ATTRIBUTED TO A FORMER RAND CORPORATION RESEARCHER, DESCRIBES DERZSKIY AS, "A RETIRED SOVIET MILITARY

OFFICER WHO SAID HIS JOB DURING APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR IN KOREA WAS TO PREPARE AMERICAN POWS FOR TRANSFER TO THE SOVIET UNION." DERZSKIY WAS AN INFANTRY OFFICER/ADVISOR WHOSE EXPERIENCES WITH AND INFORMATION ON AMERICAN POWS WAS TANGENTIAL TO HIS MAIN DUTIES. THE INCIDENTS IN PARAGRAPHS 3-6 ABOVE SHOULD BE VIEWED AS DISCRETE EVENTS AND NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY LARGER POW-RELATED ROLE FOR DERZSKIY. THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, DERZSKIY'S ASSOCIATION WITH GENERAL RAZUVAYEV CERTAINLY SUGGESTS THAT HIS DUTIES EMBRACED MORE THAN JUST ADVISORY FUNCTIONS.

8. TASK FORCE RUSSIA SENDS. PICKERING

ADMIN

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